

**Appl. No. 09/851,066
Amdt. dated September 16, 2004
Reply to Office action of June 18, 2004**

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite the resolution of this case, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Claims 1-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C § 102(e) as being anticipated by Agrawal et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,687,705 B2), in view of Rucker et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,195,657 B1) as noted in paragraph 5 of the Office action. It is believed that the Examiner meant to reject the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and not § 102 (e) In view of paragraph 4 of the Office action and the multiple references used for the rejection. Clarification is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1-22 in view of the cited references for the following reasons:

Claims 1-7:

Regarding independent claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-7, they all require in part "using said information with a second classification tool instead of with said first classification tool to classify said record in response to determining that said first classification tool requires a particular item of information that is missing from said information." The cited references fail to teach or suggest these claim limitations.

In the Rucker et al. reference, the user himself (in fact all of the users) selects information objects such as 316 and 318 that may be relevant to his chosen category, for example "new technologies" 308. What causes the user to invoke the "recommendation service" to look for any other related information is not that a particular item of information is "missing" as determined by a first classification tool as claimed in claims 1-7, but simply that the user wants to see if there are any linked information object records in common with the target category that may or may not be relevant to his/her chosen category (new technologies 308). The relevance of the information in the end is determined by the user himself. In Rucker et al., there is no classification tool that determines that there are missing items as required by claims 1-7 given that the users in

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Rucker et al. are free to determine what information objects they feel may be relevant to their chosen category. The cited Agrawal et al. reference also fails to provide any teaching for the claim limitation discussed above.

Claims 8-14:

Regarding claims 8-14, they all recite in part "using said information with a second classification tool instead of with said first classification tool to classify said record in response to determining that said first classification tool requires a particular item of information that is missing from said information." As previously discussed, the cited references taken individually or in combination fail to teach or suggest these claim limitations.

Claims 15-21:

Regarding claims 15-21, they all require in part "using said information with a second classification tool instead of with said first classification tool to classify said record in response to determining that said first classification tool requires a particular item of information that is missing from said information." As previously discussed, the cited references taken individually or in combination fail to teach or suggest these claim limitations.

Claim 22:

Claim 22 recites in part "using said information with a second classification tree instead of with said first classification tree to classify said record when said first classification tree requires a particular item of information that is missing from said information." As previously discussed, the cited references taken individually or in combination fail to teach or suggest these claim limitations.

CONCLUSION

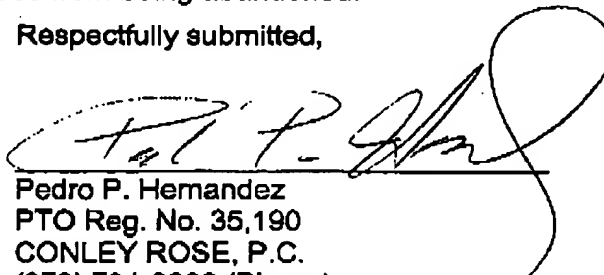
For the reasons provided above, claims 1-22 are in condition for allowance. In the course of the foregoing discussions, Applicants may have at times referred to claim limitations in shorthand fashion, or may have focused on a particular claim element. This discussion should not be interpreted to mean that the other limitations can be ignored or dismissed. The claims must be viewed as a whole, and each limitation of the claims must be considered when determining the patentability of the claims. Moreover, it should be understood that there may

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be other distinctions between the claims and the cited art which have yet to be raised, but which may be raised in the future.

Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If any fees or time extensions are inadvertently omitted or if any fees have been overpaid, please appropriately charge or credit those fees to Hewlett-Packard Company Deposit Account Number 08-2025 and enter any time extension(s) necessary to prevent this case from being abandoned.

Respectfully submitted,



Pedro P. Hernandez
PTO Reg. No. 35,190
CONLEY ROSE, P.C.
(972) 731-2288 (Phone)
(972) 731-2289 (Fax)
ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANTS

HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY
Intellectual Property Administration
Legal Dept., M/S 35
P.O. Box 272400
Fort Collins, CO 80527-2400